



Gastvortrag

IN KOOPERATION MIT DER AUSTRIAN-INDONESIAN SOCIETY

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Living in harmony with Mount Merapi: Javanese adaptation to the volcano eruption

Mittwoch, 07. Juni 2017, 18.00 Uhr, NIG, Universitätsstraße 7, IKSA, Seminarraum A



Dr. Bambang Hudayana is Head of the Department of Anthropology at the Gadjah Mada University. He has done extensive research and applied anthropology on local politics and community empowerment and, more recently, on issues related to natural disasters.

This paper will present how the Javanese adapt to the environmental hazard resulted from Mt Merapi eruption. On average, every eight years, Merapi erupts, so the people on the upper slope must choose between leaving the village or surviving. The paper shows that they use 'harmony' (*guyup rukun*) between human beings and the environment as a means of adaptation to the volcano. They therefore resist to follow relocation programs or other programs that reduce their access and right to live on the slopes of Mt. Merapi. They reproduce harmony as a social capital to promote resilience and reduce socio-economic vulnerability. They also reproduce harmony for some ritual ceremonies as a means of mitigation, evacuation and rehabilitation of disasters, and the political power to keep control of local resources and sand produced by the Merapi eruption.